



## MNC-I commander speaks with the press

**Story by**  
**SpC. Samuel J. Phillips**  
*MNC-I PAO*

During a Pentagon press briefing Aug. 18, Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, Multi-National Corps – Iraq commanding general, said the mission the Multi-National Corps – Iraq has not changed.

“Our number one task remains protecting the Iraqi population,” he said.

Austin said MNC-I is focused on the development of a capable and professional Iraqi Security Force and building civil capacity. Austin said all efforts are moving forward in a positive and tangible manner.

“Our security gains continue to trend in a positive direction even with the redeployment of five brigade combat teams and the Georgian Brigade,” he said.

According to Austin, MNC-I is operating in more areas of Iraq with fewer troops and continues to achieve success. He said one of the reasons for MNC-I’s contin-

ued success is the increasingly effective ISF.

“The Iraqi Security Force is growing in both capability and confidence,” Austin said. “As a result, we have seen signs of hope and prosperity return to many parts of the country that were once previously threatened by criminals, terrorists and others who don’t want to see Iraq reach its full potential.”

Austin believes these positive trends are encouraging, but at the same time he realizes that threats to the population remain and there is still much more work to do.

“In the north, Al Qaeda is in disarray,” Austin said, “its capability to conduct well planned and coordinated attacks is limited, but they still pose a real threat to the population.”

This does not keep the Iraqi population from returning to normalcy. Austin said a couple of weeks ago he walked through a market that was five kilometers long and was overflowing with people.

“That is something that would not have been possible a couple of months ago,” Austin said. “It is a clear sign that we are making progress.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk, MNC-I PAO

*Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, gives a press brief to the Pentagon on the continued mission of MNC-I. Some of the key points included an update on the increasing stabilization of security throughout areas of operation brought about by the improved capabilities and professionalism of the Iraqi Security Forces.*

# Marine Corps commandant visits Victory

Story and photo by  
Marine Cpl. Francis L. Goch

*MNC-I PAO*

The Marine Corps' senior officer and top enlisted advisor took the opportunity to speak Marines of Multi-National Forces – Iraq and Multi-National Corps – Iraq based out of Camp Victory during a visit to Al Faw Palace Aug. 15.

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway, and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent touched on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the CMC and the SMMC's main objective was to give the nearly 100 Marines an opportunity to voice concerns and give input to problems that affect the Marines and their families.

"We want input from the Marines to find out what needs to be fixed so we can go back and make it happen," Kent said.

Marines used the opportunity to bring up a range of topics including dependant-parent medical care, civilian contracting and Individual Ready Reserve Marines' ability to get back in the Corps.

"I think it is great to have the top leaders of the Marine Corps to come out to speak to us, especially in a combat zone," said Sgt. Derico Cooper, personal security detail agent, Multi-National Forces – West. "It really means a lot."

After getting "eyeball to eyeball" with the Marines, the CMC and the SMMC finished their visit to VBC and proceeded to the next stop on their tour of Iraq.

"We want Marines to know that we thank them for what they do and for the many sacrifices they make each and every day," Kent said.



*Gen. James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps, speaks with Marines attached to Multi-National Force - Iraq and Multi-National Corps - Iraq in the Al Faw Palace, Camp Victory, Iraq Aug. 15. Conway's chief objective was to give nearly 100 Marines a chance to voice concerns and give input on problems that effect all Marines and their families.*



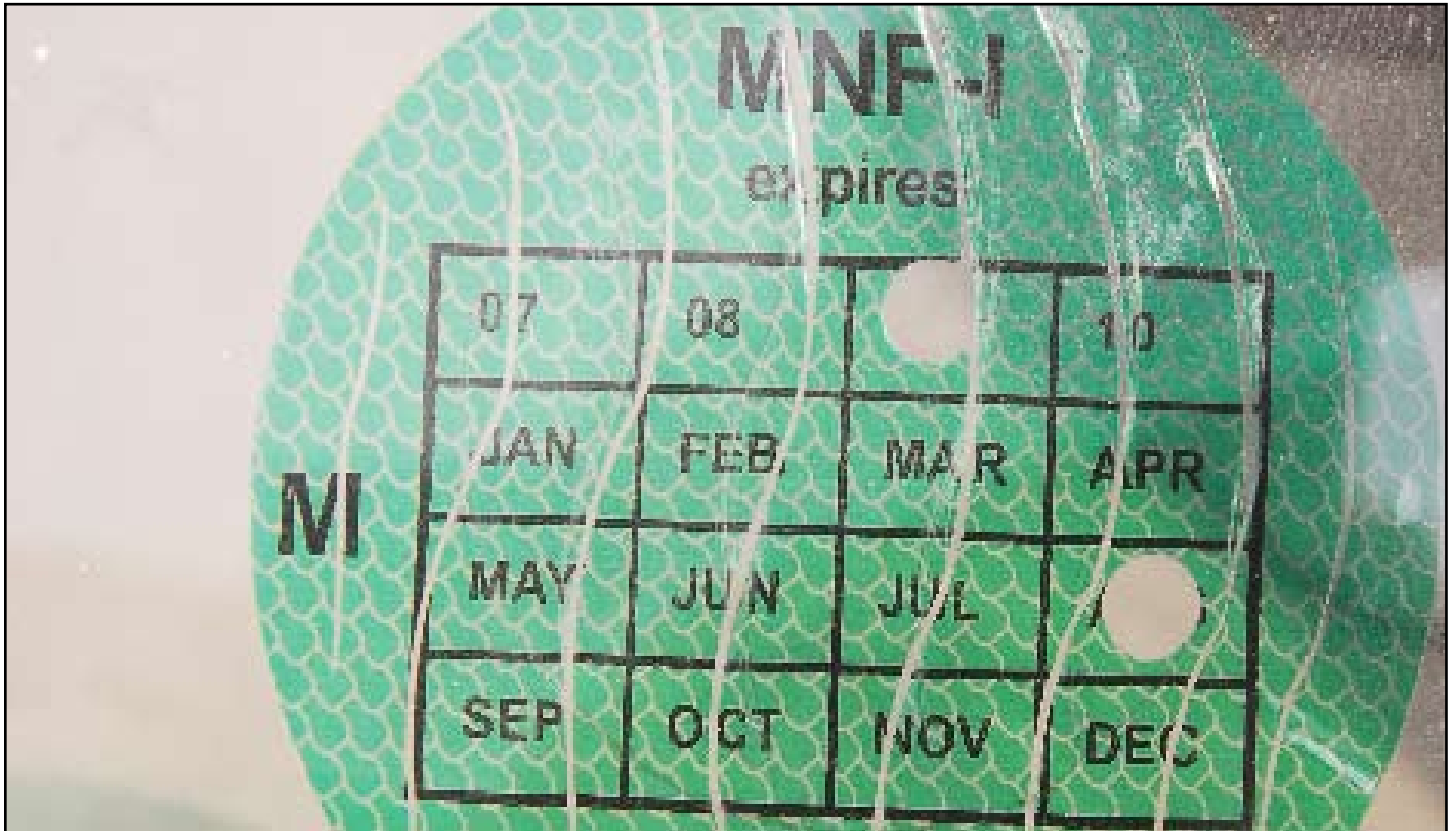
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# Vehicle registration ensures accountability



New vehicle registration, expiration stickers last only a year and should be placed on the lower drivers side of the windshield.

**Story and photo by  
Pfc. Eric J. Martinez**

*13th Public Affairs Detachment*

A vehicle registration program has been initiated to gain accountability of all vehicles operating on Victory Base Complex.

The registration covers all leased and GSA non-tactical vehicles including all-terrain non-tactical vehicles such as Gators, four-wheelers and golf carts. Registration must be completed before Oct. 31.

"Registration was started to gain control and accountability of all NTVs on Victory Base Complex," said Sgt. Maj. Bardrick McGuire, sergeant major, C-4, Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Vehicles can be registered by commanders and command sergeant majors, major command G-4s, fleet managers, unit S-4s and appointed sergeants or above with a letter of approval.

Contractors can register their vehicles through their site managers or appointed representatives.

"Privately leased vehicles must be registered as well," McGuire said. "VBC-wide registration will ensure that all vehicles have a license plate, fuel sticker and are added to the military police's data base."

In order to complete registration, all that is required is proof of ownership such as a theater -provided hand receipt, a civilian contract or a valid lease agreement. In addition vehicles must have proof

that they are safe in the form of a vehicle dispatch and safety inspection checklist.

"All agencies must understand that the registration is mandatory for even private and civilian contractors," McGuire said "Don't wait until the last minute so we can ensure that there were no mistakes in the process the first time."

The VBC registration office is located at Motor Pool 7C next to the Stryker Dining Facility and is open Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Organizations with more than seven vehicles must make an appointment prior to visiting the office.

All required forms can be found at <https://mnfi.intranet.iraq.cent.com/mil/sites/CampVictory/Mayor-Cell/default.aspx>



# Joyful Noiz plays music to spread praise

## *VBC band enhances worship through song*

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Eric J. Glassey

*13th Public Affairs Detachment*

Victory Base Complex is full of musical opportunities, from jamming out with your buddies to playing in some form of organized band. This is the place to grow in talent and fellowship with other musicians.

A praise band was put together Chaplain Jeffery Houston during a previous deployment and have developed into Joyful Noiz which is flourishing on Camp Victory today.

They've played with the group, "Third Day," a popular Christian band, while they were on a USO tour here at Camp Victory.

During the past few years, they have completely changed out musicians, singers and audio and visual techs due to individuals redeploying however, they are never lacking support or talent.

"We always got folks who are leaving which creates a hole sometimes," said Nate Lee, intelligence analyst, Multi-National Corps – Iraq. "God is faithful. As soon as someone is ready to leave to go home someone else would come to fill their spot."

Like the people who serve here in Iraq the members are diverse.

"We have members from the Army, Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force, civilians and even a representative from New Zealand in the band," said Sgt. Shane Birdsong, chaplain's assistant, MNC-I, "we are a band of brothers and sisters making some noise."

Being a part of this joyful group is quite simple.

"Just show up on a Sunday night," Birdsong said. "If you can sing, play guitar, keyboard, drums, bass, lead guitar, can run pro-sound, or would like to be a slide master, just come and talk with the band. We are always looking for folks that can play music, sing and have a heart for ministry."



Sgt. Shane Birdsong, chaplain's assistant, Multi-National Corps-Iraq's Command Chaplains Office, plays the base guitar for Joyful Noiz, a local Christian band that plays on Sundays at 6:30 p.m.